

HOUSE RESOLUTION 118  
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to commend Diane McKeethan for her honorable and astute service as Mayor of the City of Kingston.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Diane McKeethan of Kingston is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary five-year tenure as Mayor of Kingston, Diane McKeethan has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; unfortunately for her fellow citizens, she will soon be relinquishing the reigns of leadership and stepping down from her mayoral duties; and

WHEREAS, having served with distinction as the Mayor of the City of Kingston since July 2000, Ms. McKeethan was first elected to the Kingston City Council in June 1997 and became Vice Mayor in July 1999 by virtue of receiving the most votes for Council in the 1999 election; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her mayoral duties, Diane McKeethan serves with acumen and alacrity as Chairman of the Kingston Water Board and the Kingston Beer Board and as a member of the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Mayor McKeethan was paid the ultimate compliment by Governor Phil Bredesen when he appointed her to serve on the State Labor and Workforce Development Board; and

WHEREAS, Diane McKeethan is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, she is actively involved in the affairs of her community as a citizen in addition to her meritorious service as Mayor; she serves as Treasurer of the Roane County Alliance Board and is an active member of both the Roane County Drug Coalition and Drug Free Kingston; and

WHEREAS, Mayor McKeethan also served as a member of the Keep Roane Beautiful Board and as Secretary of the Roane County Cancer Society for three years each, and she has been a Red Cross volunteer for several years; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Frank O. and Joyce (Hensley) Bunch, Mayor McKeethan is a graduate of Oliver Springs High School; after moving to Kingston in 1974, she took various business courses at Roane State Community College before attending TREC Real Estate School and eventually earning a real estate license from the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, she has rendered astute and dedicated service as Office Manager for the Roane County Soil Conservation District since 1996; she also owns and manages several rental properties; and

WHEREAS, a true people person who also loves animals, Ms. McKeethan expresses her faith as a member of Edgewood Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Diane McKeethan's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, she is fortunate to share both love and companionship with her son, Michael Steven McKeethan, grandson, Brody McKeethan, and brother, Wendell Bunch; and

WHEREAS, Diane McKeethan is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend Diane McKeethan for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Kingston as their Mayor, salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and wish this remarkable lady all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.